

b.) Remarks

Claim 15 has been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Accordingly, claim 17 has been cancelled as superfluous. Claims 16, 18 and 19 have also been amended for better idiomatic usage, and claim 28 is amended to correct its dependency. No new matter has been added.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for depending from canceled claim 22. In response, as noted, claim 28 is amended to depend from claim 27.

The Examiner has rejoined process claims 14 and 25-29 but not claims 15-19 and 29-32. This is not at all well-understood; claim 15 plainly recites a method of using an allowable product (as it clearly did even prior to the instant amendment), as do claims 16, 18, 19 and 29-32. Since antecedent product claims 4 and 5 are allowed, rejoinder of all dependent process claims is required.

Additionally, the Examiner previously stated (by telephone interviews) claim 15 would not be allowable, e.g., would require undue experimentation without reciting the features of claims 18 and 19. Although such position is not iterated in the Office Action, simply in order to reduce the issues, Applicants wish to respond on the record as follows.

It is very well understood that the non-reducing terminal of an acceptor carbohydrate plays an important role for a glycosyltransferase. This is readily apparent from the fact that β -galactosyltransferase, for example, is classified based on the sugar in the non-reducing terminal to which galactose is bound. For instance, UDP-galactose: β -N-

acetylglucosamine β -1,3-galactosyltransferase and UDP-galactose: β -N-galactoseamine β -1,3-galactosyltransferase.^{1/}

Furthermore, it is apparent from *Glycopeptides and Related Compounds*, 117-123 (1997)^{2/} cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement that modification of the C-1 position of the sugar at the non-reducing terminal has no significant influence on the substrate specificity.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

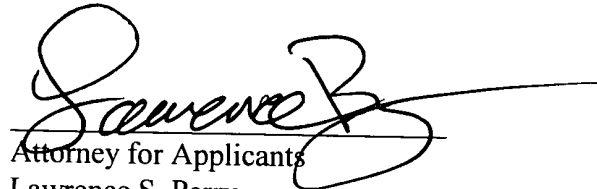
Claims 4, 5, 14-16, 18, 19 and 25-32 remain presented for continued prosecution.

^{1/} See for example *J. Biol. Chem.*, 273, 12770-12778 (1998), of record.

^{2/} See page 122, lines 8-10 and Figure 19.

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